

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of caching data files comprising:
2 providing a first computer;
3 providing a second computer;
4 establishing a peer to peer network relationship between said first computer
5 and said second computer;
6 conveying a file from said first computer to said second computer;
7 caching said file.

1 2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said caching said file
2 comprises:
3 caching said file at a caching computer.

1 3. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said caching said file
2 comprises:
3 caching said file at a location where said second computer is located.

1 4. The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:
2 receiving a request for said file at said first computer from a third computer.

1 5. The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:
2 directing said third computer to obtain said file from said caching computer.

1 6. The method as described in claim 5 and further comprising:
2 establishing communications between said third computer and said caching
3 computer; and
4 conveying said file to said third computer.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

2 providing an intermediate computer to facilitate communications between said
3 first computer and said third computer;

4 intercepting a request of said third computer for said file.

1 8. The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

2 directing said third computer to said caching computer so as to obtain said file.

1 9. The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

2 utilizing said intermediate computer as said caching computer.

1 10. The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

2 utilizing a global communication network to establish said peer to peer
3 relationship.

1 11. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions
2 for performing a method comprising:

3 establishing a peer to peer relationship between a first computer and a second
4 computer;

5 receiving a first request for a file of the first computer from the second
6 computer;

7 conveying said file from the first computer to the second computer;

8 caching said file.

1 12. The computer readable medium as described in claim 11 wherein said
2 method further comprises:

3 receiving a request for said file from a third computer.

1 13. The computer readable medium as described in claim 11 wherein said
2 method further comprises:

3 storing said file at a caching computer for access by additional computers that
4 request said file.

1 14. The computer readable medium as described in claim 11 wherein said
2 method further comprises:

3 caching said file at a location where said second computer is located.

1 15. The computer readable medium as described in claim 11 wherein said
2 method further comprises:

3 receiving a request for said file at said first computer from a third computer.

1 16. The computer readable medium as described in claim 15 and further
2 comprising:

3 directing said third computer to obtain said file from said caching computer.

1 17. The computer readable medium as described in claim 11 and further
2 comprising:

3 utilizing a global communication network to establish said peer to peer
4 relationship.
5